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CONTACT:

Lori Schmidt, Office 480-312-1817,
Mobile 480-272-1710

Mesa Family Turns Near-Tragedy Into Event To Support Drowning Prevention Coalition And Cardon Children's Medical Center

One month to the day little 2-year-old Stryker slipped into his backyard pool, his family presented Cardon Children's Medical Center and the Drowning Prevention Coalition of Arizona with a nice gift.

On Aug. 19, the new children's hospital received more than 100 toys for its Child Life program and the DPCA accepted checks totaling \$1100 raised during a Saturday donation drive in conjunction with Valley Classic Car Spas.

"We feel like we were given a gift when our son was saved," said Stryker's dad, Scott Shores. "We needed to do something to give back. We hope this is only the first of many fundraising drives to support this cause."

On July 19, Stryker was found at the bottom of their pool. Melissa Shores pulled him out and the parents began CPR. Luckily, their young son was breathing on his own when the first responders took him to Cardon Children's Medical Center.

"We are thankful for the Shores who so quickly turned a near-tragedy into an opportunity to educate other families about water safety," said Lori Schmidt, President of the DPCA. "We hope the Shores' story will spread the message that this can happen to anyone."

The DPCA stresses that families should take a 3-pronged approach to drowning prevention: Block, Watch, Learn.

- **Block:** Block access to water hazards. Put fences around pools, use protective covers on spas, close bathroom doors and dump out water buckets.
- **Watch:** Watch children around water. And if you lose track of them, always check your water hazards first.
- **Learn:** Learn CPR and teach children how to swim.

Classic Car Spas hosted the donation drive on Aug. 14 as part of Drowning Impact Awareness Month.

"We are grateful for the commitment Classic Car Spas gave to us in hosting this event," said Scott. "Their generosity in providing the location for this drive is very much appreciated."

For more information about water safety or how you can get involved, visit the DPCA website at www.preventdrownings.org or the Cardon Children's site at www.bannerhealth.com.

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Images from the event



